

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically establishing a conference comprising the steps of:

receiving conference logistics;

receiving participant profile data;

allocating a conference bridge port in accordance with the conference logistics;

extracting a participant communication address in accordance with the conference logistics;

after extracting the participant communication address, if the participant profile data includes a current communication address that differs from the participant communication address, then updating the extracted participant communication address with the current communication address in accordance with the participant profile data;

dialing a telephone number in accordance with the conference logistics and the profile data;

playing an option to accept or refuse a connection to the conference; and

connecting a communications switch port to the allocated conference bridge port.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the conference logistics comprises a start date, a connect time and ~~a conference participant address~~ the participant communication address.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 1, wherein allocating a bridge port is performed in accordance with the current communication address.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the communications switch port is associated with the current communication address.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the participant profile data comprises at least two of [(a)] the current communication address, a home address, an office address, and a wireless address.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the communications switch comprises a telephone switch.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the ~~conference~~ participant communication address and the current communication address each comprises a telephone number.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of connecting a communications switch port to the allocated conference bridge port takes place in accordance with the start date and connect time reflected in the conference logistics.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the ~~conference~~ participant communication address comprises a Internet Protocol (IP) address.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving subsequent input to a DTMF menu.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving a formatted file comprising labeled conference provisioning information.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving subscriber input to a form displayed on a client device.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a participant responds with a DTMF tone to accept or refuse a connection to the conference.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically establishing a conference comprising the steps of:

receiving conference logistics;

receiving participant profile data;

creating a conference record in accordance with the conference logistics;

maintaining conference containers indicative of how the conference record will be processed;

allocating a conference bridge port in accordance with the conference logistics;

extracting a participant communication address in accordance with the conference logistics;

after extracting the participant communication address, if the participant profile data includes a current communication address that differs from the participant communication address, then updating the extracted participant communication address with the current communication address in accordance with the participant profile data;

dialing a telephone number in accordance with the conference logistics and the profile data;

playing an option to accept or refuse a connection to the conference; and

connecting a communications switch port to the allocated conference bridge port.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the conference containers indicate whether the conference record should be allocated the conference bridge port and connected immediately, whether the conference record should be allocated the conference bridge port only, or whether the conference record should be connected only.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the conference logistics comprise a start date, a connect time and ~~a conference participant address~~ the participant communication address.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[19]]~~ 16, wherein allocating a bridge port is performed in accordance with the current communication address.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 16, wherein the communications switch port is associated with the current communication address.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the participant profile data comprises at least two of ~~[[a]]~~ the current communication address, a home address, an office address, and a wireless address.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the communications switch comprises a telephone switch.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the ~~conference~~ participant communication address and the current communication address each comprise a telephone number.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of connecting a communications switch port to the allocated conference bridge port takes place in accordance with the start date and connect time reflected in the conference logistics.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the ~~conference~~ participant communication address comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving subscriber input to a DTMF menu.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving a formatted file comprising labeled conference provision information.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving subscriber input to a form displayed on a client device.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein a participant responds with a DTMF tone to accept or refuse a connection to the conference.